

BARBARA LEE

13TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Postal Regulatory Commission
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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509**

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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August 15, 2013

Chairwoman Ruth Y. Goldway
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Dear Chairwoman Goldway,

As the representative for California's 13th Congressional District, I am writing to submit my comment to Docket Number A2013-8 in support of Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates' appeal to the relocation of the Berkeley Main Post Office.

I too have concerns regarding the way the Postal Service has handled the relocation of the Post Office. The Postal Service has consistently cited the economic benefits of selling the Berkeley Main Post Office and relocating to a smaller location that would better fit their needs. However, the Postal Service has yet to communicate any viable locations or present a cost-benefit analysis examining the financial impact of the sale and the cost of renting in the downtown area, let alone discuss how the move would affect their customers.

On several occasions, I have led and worked with local elected officials, community advocates, and post office patrons in calling on the Postal Service to abandon its plans to sell this highly-accessible community landmark. In May of this year, 22 of my congressional colleagues joined me in sending a letter to Postmaster Patrick Donahoe, asking him to remove all historic properties from the sales list and place a moratorium on current sales of recognized Historic Places.

I strongly encourage the Postal Regulatory Commission to fully consider the Mayor's appeal and to end the sale of our historic national treasures.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress